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Asst. Director for Collection and Dissemination

Deputy Director

Contact with Research and Development Board

1. Reference is made to your memorandum dated 25 February, subject: Intelligence Requirements of the Research and Development Board and the Munitions Board, in which you request instructions relative to the initiation and maintenance of direct contact with the Research and Development Board for purposes of ascertaining their intelligence requirements and dissemination to them.

2. The restrictions imposed by previous directives requiring that contact with the RDB will be only through the Chief of the Scientific Branch, ORE, are being rescinded. The Chief, Scientific Branch, ORE, will retain authorization for direct liaison with RDB for himself and such members of his branch as he may designate in connection with scientific intelligence problems. However, this authority will now be considered as in addition to the normal operating procedures and policies of CIA.

3. You are, therefore, authorized to establish and maintain such contacts with the Research and Development Board as may be essential in carrying out your assigned functions and mission in this connection. It is believed desirable that you maintain such coordination through the Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates with the Chief of his Scientific Branch to insure against undue duplication or any confusion in connection with such contacts.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

E. K. WRIGHT  
Brigadier General, USA  
Deputy Director

cc: Asst Dir for Reports and Est.

Signer's copy  
Central Records  
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HOLD FOR RELEASE  
MORNING PAPERS  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1947  
RADIO RELEASE, DECEMBER 21, 1947 - 6 PM EST

DIRECTIVE IS ANNOUNCED FOR  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Secretary of Defense Forrestal announced today the issuance of a directive defining the powers and duties of the Research and Development Board.

The directive authorizes the Board to make decisions and resolve differences on research and development subjects among the several departments and agencies of the National Military Establishment. Responsibility for specific research and development programs and projects of joint interest is to be allocated among the departments and agencies of the National Military Establishment, and, to the extent necessary, reallocation of responsibility is authorized. The Board is to establish methods for the exchange of information with respect to programs and projects in order to prevent undesirable duplication of effort. Close coordination with the Joint Chiefs of Staff is directed in order that information concerning new scientific advances and new weapons may be considered in strategic planning; the directive also provides that the Joint Chiefs of Staff will appraise the strategic value of proposed weapons and so inform the Board.

The Board is to inform the Munitions Board of the requirements for materials and components in the Research and Development Program, particularly with respect to critical and strategic materials. The Munitions Board is to advise the Research and Development Board as to the availability of such materials and substitute materials.

STA  The Board is composed of a Chairman and two senior representatives from each of the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Membership, as recently announced, is as follows: Chairman, Dr. Vannevar Bush; Army, General Jacob L. Devers and Major General Henry S. Aurand; Navy, Admiral De Witt C. Ramsey and Rear Admiral Paul F. Lee; Air Force, General Joseph T. McNarney and Major General Lawrence C. Craigie. The two Navy members are temporary and are to be replaced as soon as personnel shifts are completed.

Directive

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

18 December 1947

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the National Security Act of 1947 (Public Law 253, 80th Congress), and in order more fully to define the powers and duties of the Research and Development Board (hereinafter called the "Board") established by Section 214 of said Act, and to define the relationships of the Board with other departments and agencies of the National Military Establishment, it is hereby directed as follows:

I. MEMBERSHIP

The Board shall be composed of a Chairman, who shall be the head thereof, and two representatives from each of the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force to be designated by the Secretaries of their respective departments. For the Chairman and each representative of the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force there shall be designated a deputy who shall, in the absence or disability of his principal, act in his stead with plenary powers. The deputy for the Chairman shall be designated by the Secretary of Defense and deputies for all other members of the Board shall be designated by the Secretaries of their respective departments. The Board may from time to time appoint associate members who may attend such meetings of the Board as it may determine but who shall not have the power to vote.

II. AUTHORITY

1. On matters of major policy the Board shall make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.

2. With respect to all other research and development matters, the Board, within its jurisdiction as defined by the National Security Act of 1947 and this directive, shall act as an agency of the Secretary of Defense with authority to resolve differences among the several departments and agencies of the Military Establishment and to make decisions which shall have the force and effect of acts of the Secretary of Defense. All

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departments and agencies of the Military Establishment are directed to give full support to the Board and to provide it promptly with such information as the Board may from time to time request including plans, programs and budget estimates.

3. The Board shall not direct or control the internal administration of the research and development activities and programs of the several departments and agencies of the Military Establishment now or hereafter charged with responsibility therefor.

### III. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

Within the limits of the authority prescribed in Paragraph II, the Board shall have the powers and duties hereinafter set forth.

1. The Board shall prepare for the approval of the Secretary of Defense, not less frequently than once a year, a complete and integrated master plan of research and development for military purposes. In preparing each such master plan the Board shall advise and consult with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and shall consider the current overall plans for research and development of each military department and the programs prepared in accordance therewith.

2. The Board shall allocate among the departments and agencies of the Military Establishment responsibility for the conduct of specific research and development programs and projects of joint interest.

3. The Board shall continuously survey research and development activities which affect the National security, both within and without the Military Establishment and

- (a) recommend to the appropriate departments and agencies of the Military Establishment the initiation of projects which the Board deems to be necessary in order that research and development for the National Defense shall be complete and fully integrated;
- (b) to the extent it may deem necessary, reallocate among the several departments and agencies of the Military Establishment responsibility for any program or project of joint interest.

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4. The Board shall establish methods for the exchange of information with respect to programs and specific projects among the departments and agencies of the Military Establishment in order to prevent undesirable duplication of effort in related programs and projects.

5. The Board shall encourage the exercise of initiative on the part of the several departments and agencies of the Military Establishment in the formulation of research and development plans and programs for submission to the Board and it shall encourage direct dealing among such departments and agencies and between such departments and agencies and the users of end products of research and development.

6. The Board shall, in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, participate in coordinating those portions of the budgets of the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force which are related to research and development and shall provide the following information and advice to the Secretary of Defense:

- (a) At an appropriate time in advance of the presentation of the annual budget estimates, and in the light of the factors within the Board's purview, the Board shall present to the Secretary its recommendations as to the appropriate scope of the research and development effort for the Military Establishment as a whole.
- (b) Concurrently with its participation in coordinating the budget, as outlined above, the Board shall study the individual research and development programs of the departments against the background of the technical objectives and strategic concepts of the Military Establishment and shall recommend to the departments such shifts of emphasis and revisions as are indicated. When or after the individual departmental research and development estimates are submitted by the departments to the Secretary for final coordination, it shall be appropriate for the Board to recommend to the Secretary shifts in emphasis.

7. In order to promote the correlation of research and development with strategic and logistic plans, the Research and Development Board shall:

- (a) Advise the Joint Chiefs of Staff with respect to the interaction of research and development and strategy especially in regard to the influence of new scientific advances.
- (b) Inform the Joint Chiefs of Staff concerning the estimated technical performance and estimated time schedules of weapons systems proposed for or in process of development, and supply to the Joint Chiefs of Staff expert consultation and advice in connection therewith.
- (c) Recommend to the appropriate departments and agencies of the Military Establishment allocation of relative emphasis within their research and development programs based upon the relative importance assigned to weapons systems by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- (d) In the process of preparing an integrated master plan of research and development for military purposes, ensure that the elements entering into weapons systems of high priority receive appropriate emphasis.

8. The Board shall inform the Munitions Board from time to time:

- (a) of the requirements for materials and components in the research and development programs of the Military Establishment particularly with respect to critical and strategic materials;
- (b) of the types of raw materials and fabricated components required for production of materiel under development as soon as the programs for such development appear to be promising, in order that timely provision may be made for allocation of production facilities with minimum disruption of essential production.

9. The Board shall formulate and implement as appropriate policies for the Military Establishment in connection with research and development matters involving Government agencies outside the Military Establishment.

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10. The Board shall advise the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force as to the status of scientific research relative to National security.

11. The Board shall exercise and perform such additional powers and duties as the Secretary of Defense may from time to time direct.

IV. RELATIONSHIP OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WITH THE BOARD

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in order to promote the correlation of research and development with strategic and logistic plans will:

- (a) provide the Research and Development Board with general guidance on strategic concepts in order that the Board may carry out its responsibilities under Paragraphs 6 and 7 (a) of part III hereof.
- (b) in the light of estimated technical performance and estimated military effectiveness, appraise the strategic value of major weapon systems proposed for or in process of development and inform the Board thereof; and
- (c) determine the relative importance of achieving military effectiveness of various possible weapons systems under envisaged combat conditions as appraised above and inform the Board thereof.

2. The Munitions Board will:

- (a) advise the Research and Development Board with respect to anticipated shortages of materials and production facilities in order to guide the research and development efforts of the Military Establishment in the use of substitute materials; and
- (b) advise the Research and Development Board with respect to the characteristics and availability of standard components, critical materials, and substitute materials.

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V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The Board shall establish its own rules of procedure.
2. The Board shall meet at the call of its Chairman, or at such times as it may fix, and the presence of five members or their deputies, including at least one representative of each department, shall constitute a quorum.
3. The affirmative or negative vote of five members of the Board shall be necessary for all decisions of the Board. In the event that such agreement can not be reached, the matter involved shall be referred to the Secretary of Defense for resolution.
4. The Secretary of Defense shall provide the Board with such personnel and facilities as he may determine to be required by the Board for the performance of its functions.
5. The Board shall provide for its internal organization:
  - (a) It shall establish a secretariat consisting of civilians and such military personnel as may be designated for such duty by the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. A civilian Executive Secretary shall be designated by the Chairman with the approval of the Board. The Executive Secretary shall be the chief executive officer of the secretariat.
  - (b) It may establish committees and panels consisting of representatives of the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force, other Government agencies, scientific and educational institutions, industry, and individuals interested in research and development activities, to assist it in the performance of its functions.

James Forrestal